## R E M A R K S

The requested amendment to the specification is supported by the Certificate of Amended Translation appended hereto. The amended translation is more in conformity with the German original application which describes forming a hole that did not previously exist as opposed to sticking an electrode through a previously existing hole.

Entry of the amendment to paragraph 18 is consequently respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 15 have consequently been amended to substitute piercing for puncturing for purposes of consistency.

Claim 15 has also been amended to reflect the changes indicated in the September 16, 2009 Interview Summary to make it allowable. More specifically as indicated in the Interview Summary the breakpoints include the sealing elements to provide a "sealing fit with at least one needle shaped penetrating conductance sensor" and the "peripheral annular groove adapted to receive said replaceable control unit in said groove in snapping engagement" has been added to advance prosecution of this application as suggested.

Claim 15 is therefore deemed patentable.

Claim 1 has been extensively amended in a manner that is believed patentable. Claim 1 as amended requires: (1) a first electrode that pierces the filter cartridge wall without contacting the filter granulate or filter medium that is in contact with purified water; (2) a second electrode that is in contact with unpurified water before the unpurified water enters the replaceable filter cartridge; and (3) an electronic evaluation unit to determine when said replaceable control unit has been attached to a new replaceable water filter cartridge.

Support for the evaluation unit having the ability to determine when the replaceable control unit is attached to a new replaceable filter cartridge is found in previously presented amended claim 15 and in paragraph 0039 of the application as filed.

The limitations of claim 1 are entirely different than Clack U.S. Patent 5,290,442, Ackland, et al. U.S. Patent 4,653,337 and Punako, et al. 4,632,482. First Clack '442 pierces a manifold and not a filter cartridge so there is no possibility of piercing the filter cartridge and contacting the filter granulate or filter medium. Second Clack, et al. '442 does not have one electrode in contact with purified water and a second electrode

is in contact with unpurified water before the unpurified water enters the filter cartridge. Third Clack '442 does not have an evaluation unit to determine when the Clack '442 monitoring assembly 60 has been attached to a new replaceable water filter cartridge assembly.

The manifold of Clack, et al. '442 is placed on the reverse osmosis filter 74 (Fig. 2) which carries less pressure than carbon filter module 62. See col. 9 lines 23-45.

Furthermore the Clack '442 electrodes 120 and 122 of the monitoring means connect with reverse osmosis purified-water outlet port 78 and adjacent reverse osmosis outlet port 80 col. 9 lines 37-39. Clack '442 compares waste water at a low pressure and purified water at a low pressure in a manifold not at the inlet water and filtered water inside a filter cartridge where higher pressure is employed and where the possibility exists of penetrating the filter granulate or filter medium. Moreover Clack '442 does not have an electronic evaluation unit in a replaceable control unit to determine when a replaceable control unit has been attached to a new replaceable filter as claimed in amended claim 1.

Amended claim 14 like claim 1 includes the piercing of the filter without contacting the filter medium and the ability of

one electrode to contact unfiltered water and the other electrode to contact water that is to be filtered. Amended claim 14 also claims a screen in the replaceable filter cartridge that is not present in the manifold of Clack '442. Finally amended claim 14 has break points or an area with an elastic sealing material on the wall of the replaceable filter cartridge that is necessary to determine where the electrodes are to be inserted without contacting the filter medium.

Clack '442 does not have a problem of defining where the electrodes are to be inserted since there is no filter medium in the manifold to cause an erroneous reading by the monitoring device.

Finally neither Punako, et al. '482 and the more relevant Ackland, et al. '337 do not deal with the same problems faced by the present inventors. In Ackland, et al. '337 the container body is under reduced pressure when the wall is pierced. Moreover Ackland, et al. '337 does not have to withstand positive water pressure and like Clack '442 does not face the problem of where to pierce the container to prevent contact with a filter medium.

The patience, constructive comments and diligent search of the prior art by the Examiner is greatly appreciated and is

commended. The constructive comments regarding claim 15 have been adopted to advance prosecution of this application. The amendments to claims 1 and 14 however are believed to make them patentable over the prior art for which reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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September 19, 2009

# CERTIFICATION OF AMENDED TRANSLATION

This letter certifies that paragraph 18 of the translation from German to English of the patent application entitled "Water Filter Cartridge" (Wasserfilterpatrone) has been reviewed and found to need clarification by changing the wording "stick ... through" to more precisely describe the word "piercing" the needle-shaped electrodes through the sealing material.

The translation "...to stick ...through" could be misinterpreted as passing through an existing hole but the German words "durchgestochen werden" is more accurately translated as forming a hole that did not previously exist by the needle "piercing" through the sealing material. Therefore attached hereto is a better translation of paragraph 18 from the German original.

"In a special embodiment of the invention, the housing wall of the filter cartridge can have, at the place provided for the sensor elements to pass through, an elastic sealing material, e.g., an elastomer. It is then possible for needle-shaped electrodes to be inserted, for example, by piercing through this sealing material, while maintaining a sealing form fit with the material."

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Director

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